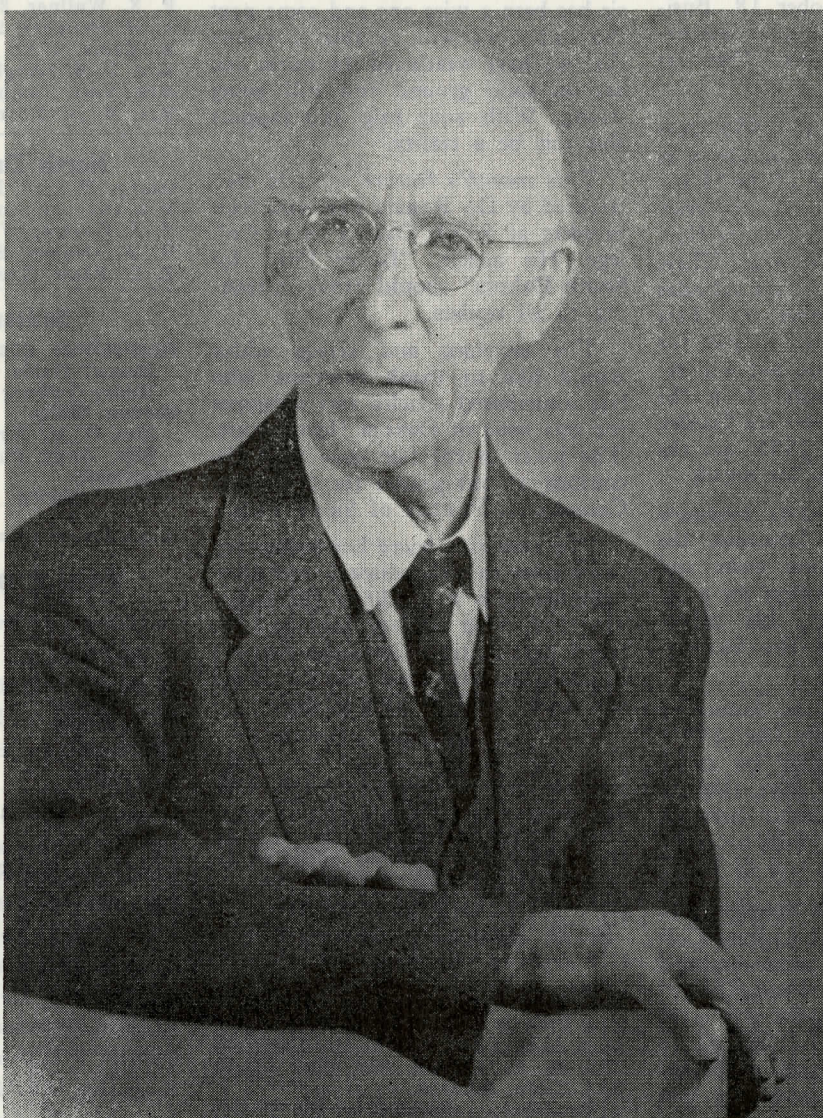


MAR 24 1961

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1957

In Memoriam



W. A. SIMMONS
1871 — 1957

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SECRETARY'S NOTES . . .

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER
Vol. 30 Nos. 10, 11, 12

Much copy for this issue has been contributed in memory of W. A. Simmons by many of his closest friends. I am sure that many other readers would like to have expressed a memorial thought, however, I am sure that those appearing in the magazine certainly convey the feelings of everyone who knew Mr. Simmons.

In the middle spread of this issue you will find the Garden Club Section edited by Mrs. Geo. M. Jorgensen. We know that this section is of real interest and service, not only to Garden Clubbers but to all our readers.

Included in this issue are the minutes of the Executive Board, which met in Brookings October 18. Business transacted included two important items for our readers. They are dues and subscriptions.

Beginning January 1, 1958 dues and subscriptions will be considered as two separate items. Dues of the Horticultural Society will be \$1 per year. The subscription rate for Dakota Horticulture will be \$1 per year. These payments will be based on the calendar year January 1-December 31. Life members will be expected to pay for the magazine subscription but will receive the Annual Report as in the past. This will be effective for Garden Club members July 1, 1958. See the executive board minutes for details.

This increase was made necessary in order to properly continue the magazine. Due to rising costs and lack of a state appropriation the executive board felt that this action should solve some of the financial problems.

The Society plans to launch a membership drive early in 1958. Many of you folks may be called upon to serve in this drive. Volunteers are welcome. Contact president S. A. McCrory if you wish to serve. He will be glad to put you to work.

The Department of Horticulture-Forestry at South Dakota State College is initiating a mimeographed publication to be called 'Plains Talk.' The purpose of this newsletter is to present current items of interest to South Dakotans interested in Horticulture and Forestry. Some of you may receive this newsletter, others may be placed on the mailing list by

notifying the department of Horticulture-Forestry at South Dakota State College.

In the latest issue of Wisconsin Horticulture we find that the Wisconsin Society is going to discontinue their magazine, Editor H. J. Rahm-low says, "It won't be long now, we say good bye in our November issue." The editor states that without a state appropriation which is necessary to continue his office on a full time basis, the magazine cannot be published in its present form.

We hope that the decision of the executive board to continue Dakota Horticulture on a six-issues-a-year basis has been a wise one and come next November we will be able to report that we have weathered the storm and are on solid ground and still going strong. With your help and support this can be a reality.

This month's feature story is contributed by Dr. Ronald Peterson, fruit breeders at South Dakota State College. His article, "Better Fruit for South Dakota" should prove interesting to all readers.

The secretary and acting editor would like to thank everyone who has contributed articles and assistance for this issue of Dakota Horticulture. The jokes in the last issue were the courtesy of our printer the O'Connor Commercial Printers of Sioux Falls.

The executive board has authorized the officers to seek editorial and stenographic help to facilitate the magazine and other Society business. We hope that suitable arrangements can be made between now and the January issue. We will see you then.

(Cont. Page 91)

Membership in the South Dakota State Horticultural Society is \$1.50 per year. The subscription rate for affiliated organizations is 75 cents per year.

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DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

IN MEMORIAL . . .

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *These articles in memory of the late W. A. Simmons are signed by the contributor. We feel that this is a fine tribute to Mr. Simmons by many of his closest friends.*)

W. A. SIMMONS BIOGRAPHY

(From the Sioux Falls Argus-Leader)

Sept. 30, 1957—Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday for W. A. Simmons, 86, a leading figure in South Dakota horticulture for more than 40 years, who died Saturday night.

Death was caused by a heart affliction which forced Mr. Simmons to retire in June as secretary of the South Dakota Horticulture Society and editor of the magazine, *Dakota Horticulture*—posts he had held for more than 22 years.

Dean Francis X. Cheney of Calvary Cathedral will officiate at the funeral services, which will be held at the Miller Funeral Home. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

In his long active career, Mr. Simmons received many honors for his service to horticulture. He was repeatedly re-elected to the presidency of the South Dakota Horticulture Society until he retired, despite protests of members, after serving for eight years. In 1948 he received that John Robertson Memorial Award—a gold medal—for "distinguished service to horticulture." For years he was secretary of the Sioux Falls Garden Club.

His gentle humor delighted readers of his column, "The Secretary's Corner," in *Dakota Horticulture*, and of "Garden Gossip," and unsigned column which he wrote for the Sunday *Argus-Leader* until three months ago.

Mr. Simmons first came to South Dakota as a young man, 65 years ago—and immediately fell in love with the state. Born in Hastings, Minn., he ranged widely before settling down in Sioux Falls in 1909. Until 1934 he represented a Chicago wholesale drug firm in the states of South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming.

But his real lifelong interest was in green growing things. He was fascinated by the work of the late Dr.

N. E. Hansen, a genius who produced many new and hardy varieties of trees and plants for the northern United States climate belt. Wherever he went, Mr. Simmons preached the gospel of horticulture and signed up new members for the state society.

When the depression left him jobless at the age of 63, Mr. Simmons began pouring all his energies into his old hobby. For years he maintained the horticultural society's office in the fourth floor of the county courthouse.

Until well after his 85th birthday, Mr. Simmons managed the long climb to his office several times a day, and he was a familiar figure on Sioux Falls streets.

At his bedside when he died were his wife, Beatrice; his two sons, Walter, of Kenilworth, Ill., and Wilmer, Sioux Falls, and his daughter Jessie, also of Sioux Falls. The family home is at 1620 S. Spring Ave.

Pallbearers for the services will be Fred C. Christopherson, John R. FitzGibbon, Louis R. Hurwitz, Dr. C. J. McDonald, Henry G. Walser and Lyle J. Wirt.

"W. A. always a student of Horticulture, a friend whose passing will be felt by myself as well as a host of his Horticulture friends in this area."

GEO. W. GURNEY,
Yankton, S. Dak.

It was in Fargo in 1926, when I met Mr. Simmons for the first time. The occasion was our North Dakota State Horticultural meeting. I admired Mr. Simmons' ability in discussing tree fruits, and from that time on I followed up reading his instructive articles all through his life time. His pointers on grafting gave me ideas that I have made use of ever since.

It is hard to believe that the South Dakota Horticultural Society, that has prospered so well, would have done so had it not been for W. A. Simmons. In the twenties as its president and later on as secretary he gave the Society a most splendid service. Through his ready wit and gracious way, which helped him very much to get new members, he endeared himself very much to all of us.

R. L. WODARZ
Wyndmere, N. D.

IN MEMORY OF MY FRIEND W. A. SIMMONS

by
F. X. WALLNER

In the very first issue of the "South Dakota Horticulturist," President Simmons wrote in his Foreward, "Herewith the South Dakota Horticulturist makes its bow to our members. We trust its life will be long and that it will grow in size, value and esteem of our members. It will be sent free to all annual members as 50c of the annual dollar membership fee will be for the magazine, and life members may have it by paying 25c per year. The reason for making a charge to life members are: first our poverty; second the size of our life membership; third our curiosity to see how much life there is in our life membership. The 550 life members still on our list received full value in premiums and the annual report and this magazine is an extra service and any members wanting it should be willing to pay 25c a year." (This was back in March 1929.)

His "Extracts from The Diary of a Traveling Saleman" start in the third issue May 1929 and continued regularly for many years.

Our relationship became close at this time as we were both officers of the Society. It was at Yankton in 1922 that we elected him president and moved the meeting place to Sioux Falls, expecting to make it permanent, but we discovered it was best for the Society to meet in all parts of the state. It was in Clark in 1937 and again in 1938 where a live garden club first was host to the Society, where we first had coffee and cookies and they put us up in thier homes. During this convention Mr. Simmons gave them so much praise that it was the smaller towns with good garden clubs that often had the very best meetings.

We spent much time together at these conventions and at garden club meetings. He was alway planning where to have the next meeting and where there should be a garden club. It was at our own garden club here in Sioux Falls, where Mr. Simmons and his coffee pot were so well known. When the meeting would drag along he would slip out and soon come back

in—"Coffee is hot, come and get it."

His jokes, wit and humor were best known where he was coffee maker and secretary for so many years.

For many years we met twice a month and I usually brought him out home, and we often sat an hour in the car talking and planning. Horticulture, The Society, and Garden Clubs were his usual topics of conversation.

"W. A., I will miss you. We will all miss you."

An era in Horticultural journalism began in the the Dakota's when W. A. Simmons took over as Secretary of the South Dakota Horticultural Society in February, 1935, and the next month began his familiar column in DAKOTA HORTICULTURE, "Secretary's Corner." However, his writings go back much farther than that. His earliest writing of which we have record is his President's Address before the South Dakota Horticultural Society in session in the Cataract Hotel in Sioux Falls on January 5, 1926. Running true to form he commented, "Potatoes are very scarce and high this year, and at the present price of \$2.50 per bushel, this promises to be a hard winter on the Irish." In this report—back there 31 years ago he commented on the value of top working fruit trees in order to grow semi-hardy varieties. The "boys" had been busy helping harvest his short apple crop. They drew the passing comment that "neighboring boys hardly had enough apples for their own needs, and so of course, could hardly be expected to leave any for the mere grower!"

In the May, 1929, issue of DAKOTA HORTICULTURE, we find the first installment of his column, "Extracts From the Diary of a Traveling Man." Testimony to how widely travelled he was is indicated by the fact that on one occasion many years ago, he drove his horse and buggy up to the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Truax of Crosby, North Dakota. He tied the reins to the buggy whip and sauntered up the front door with no more ceremony than if he had driven over from the other side of town.

To say his style of writing was unique would be putting it mild. I use the word because I can't think of a better term for a style that made

most folks first turn to his Secretary's Corner on Page 11.

I have gone on much longer than I intended, but there is so much that could be said about the life, works, and humor of W. A. Simmons. One cannot soon forget a pen pal of twenty years. His letters were supposed to be primarily business, but he seldom failed to add a quip, or two. He had the rare faculty of being able to scold and praise you in the same paragraph and make you like both.

HARRY A. GRAVES,
Secretary,
North Dakota
Horticultural Society

It has been said "By his words ye shall know him," and that is the way I best knew Mr. W. A. Simmons.

His way with a pen was second to none, and when he wrote about a flower, shrub, or tree, one wanted to rush right out and find one to love. His "Garden Gossip" column in the Sioux Falls Sunday Argus-Leader was as rich in the philosophy and beauty of gardening as it was in authentic horticultural information; and people who never expected to sow a seed, read it for the esthetic satisfaction to be derived from it. However, he knew whereof he spoke when he set it down on paper for he grew, or had grown, every plant about which he spoke.

No one could write a more beautifully phrased or flattering letter than he, and many a garden club gal has thrilled to his expressive language. On the other hand, no one with whom he corresponded, has failed to experience his ready, and sometimes razor-sharp wit. Nothing escaped his observation, and he was never at a loss to express his opinion with a well-turned remark or a humorous anecdote. His wit was as much a part of him as his well-known green thumb, and I have often told him he reminded me of George Bernard Shaw. His Shavian humor alone will set him apart in his place among the best-remembered of South Dakota horticulturists.

JUANITA JORGENSEN,
Juanita Jorgensen,

In going over some of Mr. Simmons life history as he had it recorded I found this in regard to the Horticultural Society. "Until 1912 I had never heard of the Horticultural Society. In early January of that year I was riding on the N. W. Ry. east of Huron one night, when some men from the Black Hills came through the train carrying and showing to the passengers some very large apples they had raised in the Spearfish Valley that summer and which they were taking to a Horticultural meeting at Brookings. Then Jessie (his sister) had been writing me of the work of Dr. Hansen, which also interested me. On my next trip to Brookings, I called on Dr. Hansen and joined the Society. The next year I happened to be in Redfield while the Horticulture Society was holding its meeting and I was able to attend one session.

After this I managed to go to all the Horticultural meetings and in 1915 Dr. Hansen put me on the program and I was on the program at all succeeding meetings till I became Secretary, in 1935." Mr. Simmons was salesman for Foley & Co. when he first got interested in our Society, he brought us more members and did more missionary work for the society, than any other, in fact he was our top salesman. And the 22 years when he was Secretary he devoted all his time to the Society. We will indeed miss him.

H. N. DYBVIG, --
Dell Rapids, S. Dak.

Mr. Simmons will be missed sorely by Dakota Horticulturists. As a traveling salesman for Horticulture, his was always a welcome face at Fargo when I was there. He was the first person to show any great enthusiasm for my vegetable breeding at North Dakota Agricultural College with a special boost for Sunshine sweet corn which was just ready for introduction. He could well be credited with being the founder of the magazine, North and South Dakota Horticulture. The place of such a departed friend cannot be really filled. All the rest of us can do is to carry on to the best of our ability and try to make an equal mark.

A. F. YEAGER,
Durham, New Hampshire

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

W. A. Simmons was a kind and a gentle man with a green thumb. His absorbing interest was horticulture and to it he devoted most of his time in the many years of his active life.

As a result of his efforts, interest was stimulated in South Dakota and he did much to promote the expansion and improvement of fruit growing and to develop the South Dakota Horticulture Society as an effective organization.

His interest in the field of horticulture was broad. He was concerned about better grasses, about better flowers and about better fruit. He studied these subjects exhaustively, and as editor of *Dakota Horticulture*, presented well his viewpoints and those of many others in these fields. His contribution, in consequence, was substantial and his was a rich and a productive life. Let us be grateful that it was our pleasure and privilege to have had him among us so many years.

F. C. CHRISTOPHERSON,
Sioux Falls

In the process that will be history, people came to this area to make their fortunes or go broke and, in either case, a temporary stay. Now we are states of homes, farms and ranches with a planning and doing for more permanent things about us. A proportionately few people expedited this beneficial change through leadership by example. Mr. W. A. Simmons was one of that relative few. *Dakota Horticulture*, under his editorship, has been a clearing house of information on the things that grow and might be grown in the Dakotas and his pixie wit made the column that he wrote peculiarly his own.

GEORGE F. BIRD, *President*,
North Dakota State
Horticultural Society

W. A. Simmons had a greater interest in horticulture than anyone I have known. This interest extended to people who were less enthusiastic and could benefit by words of encouragement. Truly a "pioneer horticulturist." In his own way he gave much from which we all benefit.

S. A. MCCRORY,

I first came in contact with Mr. Simmons through the magazine in 1930. His 'Extracts from the Diary of a traveling man' were interesting and I continued to enjoy his pertinent observation and droll humor. Dr. A. F. Yeager, then secretary of the North Dakota society, had suggested that I contribute a bird column. I had wanted to try a series on individual species and this began in September, 1930, with the white-throated sparrow.

Mr. Simmons, as later the editor, became attached to these articles and gave them first place in the magazine. He said if I quit writing them he would run them over, a threat which he made good in November, 1943, when copy was delayed. (Two were later re-written accidentally.)

Later I met Mr. Simmons at several of the meetings and at least once called at his office. It has been my observation that small organizations are usually kept moving by the persistent work of one or a few people. W. A. was one of such a group and the Society owes him a large share of credit. It was evident that his wide personal contacts, were responsible for many new members and that his articles were a great help in maintaining the interest of readers. His ability to keep the publications going at a minimum cost can be appreciated only by those who knew him best.

O. A. STEVENS,
Fargo, N. Dak.

The South Dakota State Horticultural Society has had a long and interesting history starting in Territorial days as the Dakota Horticulture and Forestry Association and transforming and adjusting to many changes in civilization and environment until the present time of atomic missiles and space satellites.

During this time many strong men have lead and worked for the Society to bring it through as a potent force in the horticultural circles of the state.

None has been more loyal, energetic and faithful than W. A. Simmons. Without a doubt, as a result of his many years as secretary and major-

domo, he has emerged as the most dominant figure in the history of the Society. His faithfulness, his sacrifice and his diligence kept the Society active when practically all means of financial support were lost. His cryptic editorial comment was not always popular but it stimulated the membership to think and to act for the betterment of the Society and its partner, the Federatd Garden Clubs.

We will miss Simmons and his good counsel and judgement in running the affairs of the Society, but we will look to the example he set and will try to be as faithful and loyal as he was to the objectives and principles of our Society.

HARRY WOODWARD
Pierre, S. Dak.

Mr. Simmons leaves behind with thousands of his fellow prairie citizens a legion of happy memories. These will be cherished affectionately. Many of us knew him best through the cheery, personable journal that he guided ably and distinctively for several decades, *DAKOTA HORTICULTURE*. Successive issues brought cargoes of new knowledge, a visit with leaders in nature study and gardening in the realm of the Dakotas, and usually some wholesome chuckles. The magazine has been a power for wide-spread good far beyond its home States. On the Canadian prairies it has been richly valued.

My first personal contact with our friend was at an annual meeting. He impressed as being well versed in plant knowledge and contributed some advanced thoughts on hybrid lilies. His presence added color and vivacity to the sessions. Happily, he has had a long full life on these fertile broad plains. We are thankful for knowing him. May we be worthy of proceeding onward with his objectives!

W. R. LESLIE,
Winnipeg, Manitoba,
Canada

EXPERIENCE IN HORTICULTURE

by

R. L. WODARZ



Wodarz

year of damaging drouth. Being a mild winter all of the fruit trees wintered very well, even after a crop "best ever."

Spring of 1957 gave us a chance to put our small grain in fine shape. Before the frost was out of the ground there came a heavy downpour of rain and later on more and more through the growing season. We experienced no hail nor any strong winds; however, the amount of rain as much as this summer, I never remember since I was on this farm. That is 1913. I have a rain gauge in the orchard and this is what is recorded: April, 5.2; May, 8.5, June, 6.8, July, 4.15; August, 3.85; September 9.00. This last rain on Labor Day was a cloud burst, as a short distance North of us as well as but a little way South had much less. This stopped plowing and

other field work for a month. Outside of some grain in the swath and some fields of potatoes, there was no real harm done. Nevertheless, some difficulty was experienced in filling silos. Corn fields would not hold up heavy machinery.

As to the orchard fruits, the plum cherries have done very well and the hybrid plums fairly well, although brown rot was very much in evidence. Also, the splitting of some hybrid plums was really bad. The Ember had I should estimate one half of its plums cracked open and some LaCrescent. I want to say that this does not happen except in exceedingly wet years with much humidity in the air. The Stanley plum, which is just like the Italian prune, wintered well and bore a good crop. The Kirckon also came along fine. Chris Geir from Edinburg, N. D., had Mount Royal plums fruiting this fall. Here is hoping we have another mild winter.

There were precious few summer apples, and outside of Wedge, winter apples were scarce too. Income for apples was only one-fourth of what was taken a year ago. With the heavy crop of last year, one would hardly expect any more. The damp weather had some effect on the Early McIntosh apples as much of the fruit had burst open shortly before ripening. That was something I have never noticed on apples, barring a few seedlings.

I had the honor of being visited by Homi Hormuzdy, a fram youth exchange student from Bombay, India.

Homi was on an observation tour through parts of the U. S. A. He put in two weeks on Harry Ewald's farm near Barney, North Dakota. Homi, Harry Ewald and Ray Puetz came the 18th of August, just the time when some of the hybrid plums were at their best. They sampled the Red coat plum and pronounced it very good tasting. Then I took them to try the LaCrescent; that was even better. Finally I asked them to sample the Fiebing. They all said it was best ever. Homi was ever so much pleased with its flavor.

On the other hand, some ladies came to get a pail of plums. Coming to a tree, they tasted its fruit, liked it well and would take these but first they wanted to look around the orchard. Being through sampling and looking around the orchard, they asked me to show them the plum tree they selected to get that pail of plums picked. Naturally they tasted the fruit again and I was told that that was not the tree so they took another variety.

When folks came after apples they almost always brought their children with them. I had to disappoint many of them as the crop was short. But almost always there were a few apples to satisfy the little ones. There was a boy hardly old enough to start going to school. "What are you going to be when you grow up," I asked, "Will you be a teacher or will you be a doctor or what will you be?" "Well," he said, "I may even be a priest, but Just now I want to be a kid."



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WRITE FOR OUR FREE 1957 ANNUAL SEED AND NURSERY CATALOG

NEWSLANTS

by

HARRY A. GRAVES



The Annual Meetings of the North Dakota Horticultural Society for 1957 have come and gone. The Town Hall of the Gardner Hotel in Fargo proved to be a very adequate meeting place. Our formal sessions, the Fruit Show, and our Banquet were all held in this same room.

There should not be need to list the program again since all paid up members; save a few, got copies of the program in advance. The few of you who did not have cause for complaint. We try to keep track of you all, but sometimes we fail. We do wish, however, that when you do not receive the magazine and you feel that you are entitled to it; write and tell us. The fault may be ours, and then again, it may not be ours. We have had a few shining examples of the latter in recent years.

Now, back to the program. The talks by Dr. Lana, Dr. Potter, and William Oitto were excellent. As one visitor remarked, "The Attendance at your Friday afternoon meeting was an insult to the high caliber of your program." Don Hoag directed a popular session on flower arranging as the sessions closed. He was assisted by Martin Johnson, Vance Goodfellow and Neal Holland. It appears we could have a section devoted to flower arranging at our Annual Meeting each year without offending anyone.

The highlight of our annual event,

I am sure, was the talk given by Dr. C. I. Nelson. The presence of about 30 extra folks at the banquet was tributed to the high esteem in which so many folks hold "Cap" Nelson. In his presentation, Dr. Nelson paid tribute to plant men and horticulturists from whom he has learned much of his knowledge of Horticulture. Names like H. L. Bolley, the Waldrons, H. O. Werner, A. F. Yeager and J. H. Schultz were given credit for giving helpful horticultural suggestions. All were interested in the story of what the Nelson's have been "up to," since they have established their home at River Falls, Wisconsin.

There were 192 plates of fruit displayed in spite of the fact we did not put on a state-wide drive for exhibits. In the past, certain County Agents have been most helpful in getting out exhibits from their counties. This year 15 of the County Agents had their 4-H Achievement Days on September 19th and 20th. As a result, they had a few more things than apples on their mind that weekend.

From a distance, exhibits were received from the Philip Weisers of Hazelton; the Albert Seefelts of Grand Rapids, Olaf Sarkinen of Gackle and Chris Geir of Edinburg. R. L. Wodarz and the Mandan Great Plains Field Station displayed about 40 plates each. The new varieties Rodney and Reta from the Wodarz orchard; Peace Garden, Stephans and Garrison from Mandan and a large unnamed variety exhibited by Harold Nessel of Sheldon created considerable interest.

New officers are George F. Bird, Bismarck, President; Mrs. Olaf Monson, Maddock, Eastern Vice President; and E. J. George, Mandan, Western Vice President. Holdover officers are E. L. Shaw, Fargo, Treasurer and Harry Graves, NDAC, Secretary. The invitation to meet in Bismarck in September of 1958 was accepted.

Special thanks to Lucille Westby for all her help during her two years as president; to Bob Askew, Eastern vice president, for doing an able job when Mrs. Westby was unavoidably delayed, and the Sheyenne Gardeners Garden Club for the many burdens they assumed.

In conclusion, let me say, that the attendance at all sessions except the banquet was poor. I am not scolding

anyone. It costs money to drive 100, 200, or 300 miles. It also takes time. However, the Annual Meetings and Dakota Horticulture are the two chief tangible items you get in return for your membership dues. The meetings are rotated as much as possible for your convenience. We wish we had better attendance from the area where the meetings are held.

As a final shot in this connection, let me say again, please let us know when you don't get your magazine. We can't divine from here if the magazine goes astray.

For some weeks now, Dr. W. R. Leslie has been in charge of a weekly garden column for the Winnipeg Free Press. This is the same Russ Leslie who, for 20 years, wrote a column in Dakota Horticulture entitled, "Morden Newsletter." Proof that Dr. Leslie's Free Press contributions are widely read comes in our mail this week in the form of a request for our circular "Asparagus and Rhubarb." The request came from Ingram Ball, whose address is Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Other requests have come from less distant points in Canada. They all say they heard about us in the Winnipeg Free Press.

From the Market Growers Journal, we learn that colored slides and movies on principles of landscaping are available from the American Association of Nurserymen, 635 Southern Bldg., Washington 5, D. C.; National Arborist Ass'n., Box 426, Wooster, Ohio; National Garden Bureau, 407 South Dearborn Street, Chicago 5, Illinois; and the National Landscape Nurserymen's Ass'n., c/o Lloyd Platt, R.D.I., Davenport, Iowa.

Few plant science developments have created as much publicity in the plant world as gibberellic acid, the "wonder chemical" that is reported to make many plants grow like Jack's beanstalk. It has been pretty definitely established that gibberellic acid will make many plants grow much larger. Let us make haste slowly in the use of this material, however, until it has been more widely tested under a wide range of conditions. Anything as radical in its effect on plant material as gibberellic acid is reported to be is not likely to come into common home garden use right away.

Clifford Larson of Wahpeton has had the Golden Queen raspberry for

(Continued on page 95)

GARDEN CLUB NOTES...

Edited by MRS. G. M. JORGENSEN

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

MRS. VERN TOMPKINS



Mrs. Tompkins

My slate of State Chairmen was not complete in time for the last edition. Mrs. Frank Eisenlohr, Webster, is Conservation Chairman. I neglected to say that Nita Jorgensen was appointed co-editor of the Horti-

culture magazine; with Mary Photokas, Huron, our second member of the Editorial Board.

I enjoyed attending the meeting of 5th and 6th districts, of which Mrs. Harold Jorgensen, Volin, is Chairman. The meeting, held in Dell Rapids, Oct. 5, was well attended, and was a good chance to get better acquainted.

Members will be glad, and proud, to know that South Dakota was 102 per cent for the Permanent Home, as of Sept. 30, and a tidy sum has been sent in by our Chairman, Mrs. Baughman, since then.

I would like to request that each club secretary in the state send me a complete membership list.

The trip to Topeka, to the National Council Board meeting was informative and most enjoyable. Meeting Presidents of other states, as well as National personnel, and comparing notes can be a great deal of help. The bus tour of the city of Topeka, seeing, among many things of interest, the future home of the Governor; Tea at the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Huff; the Banquet, with "Keeping Posted" as the decorative there rounded out the first day, Oct. 9. Much preparation and thought are required to attain such perfect results. The day has started, for the writer, with a lovely breakfast, as a guest of Helen Cuddy, our Rocky Mountain Regional Director. We had the pleasure of hearing Leonard Yager of Montana State College, and formerly from South Dakota, on two occasions. One of the highlights following the luncheon on Thursday, was the demonstra-

tion on "Party Tables Through the Years," by Mrs. Jack Wagner, Kansas City. Needless to say, the tea at the Governor's mansion and being greeted by Gov. and Mrs. George Docking in person, was an unexcelled pleasure.

In closing may I offer a small tribute to Mr. Simmons, on whom we could depend for any help possible for him to give, up to the very last.

"But once I pass this way,
And then—and then, the silent door
Swings on its hinges—

Opens—closes—

And no more I pass this way.

So while I may—

With all my might

I will assay

Sweet comfort and delight

To all I meet along the pilgrim way,

For no man travels twice the great
highway

That climbs through darkness up to
light

Through night to day.

—Author Unknown.

GREETINGS FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT



How happy I am to greet you, the members of the Federated Garden Clubs of South Dakota through the pages of your state publication. How well I remember my first visit to you many years ago when you met in Rapid City. It was then we were privi-

leged to hear Professor Leonard Yager talk to you on "Gladiolas." Now Montana claims him and we are sharing him with all the other 45 states in our organization, as National Horticulture Chairman.

Your President has just returned from a three-week tour of region and state meetings in the midwest, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Kansas. She has viewed the progress of the building of your own national headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. We are indeed proud that South Dakota is now numbered as one of the one hundred per cent states. One dollar per member. You indeed have played an important part in the history and future of your state and the National Council, so that we may have a permanent headquarters and can better facilitate our information to the world of gardening.

Your own Mrs. Earl Kindred, National Bird Chairman, presented a splendid program for these next two years of planning at our National Council Fall Board meeting in Topeka, Kansas.

Yours is a great State, you have a rich background in the knowledge of Horticulture. We know you will continue to grow and plan future programs around your National President's theme for these next two years: "Our Horticultural Stewardship." Know your own gardens, your trees, your plants, and your birds.

Have a Blessed and Joyous Holiday Season.

Most Sincerely,

EVELYN F. MOONEY, *President,*
National Council of State
Garden Clubs.

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OUR BELOVED NATIONAL PRESIDENT

by

MRS. G. M. JORGENSEN

Rocky Mountain Region is proud of its first President of National Council—not only because she is our very first one but because she is one of those few people of whom we can say, “She has everything” to make her an outstanding leader of the nation’s garden club people. Her personal attributes of beauty, talents and charm make a lasting impression on anyone who has had the privilege of meeting her and seeing her at work. South Dakota well remembers the beautiful lady from Montana who visited us in 1947 when we were still experiencing the pangs of birth of a new organization, and whose poise and equanimity never wavered. The final test of character, however, comes from those with whom one works every day, and her own members of the Montana Federated Garden Clubs have this to say:

“Yes, we will share her with the rest of the Garden Clubs belonging to National Council of State Garden Clubs, but we knew her first! At our very first national convention in 1938 we all fell in love with her and have been her devoted followers ever since.” More excerpts from Mrs. Mable Steele’s story in the Montana Quarterly state, “In 1937, Evelyn, President of the Rocky Mountain Garden Club of Butte, decided to attempt to organize a State Federation of Montana Garden Clubs. Mrs. Arthur Salsbury had given up the attempt the year before, but as Evelyn had received letters from three other cities asking assistance in forming garden clubs, she felt encouraged to try. She wrote many letters to other clubs; attended the Regional Rocky Mountain convention in Colorado Springs; organized clubs, and corresponded with Mrs. A. G. Fish, Regional Vice-President of the Rocky Mountain Division of NCSGC, constantly. On September 14, Evelyn called a meeting of the ten Butte Garden Clubs with a membership of 285, and of Corvallis with 40 members. The first annual convention was held in June, 1938. Delegates were present

from Corvallis, Great Falls, Miles City, Billings, Laurel, Dillon, Bozeman, Butte and Missoula. Mrs. A. G. Fish was guest speaker, and presented our Federation with a gavel. The Montana Federation was welcomed into National Council in October, 1938.

“National Council was not long in recognizing Evelyn’s ability and talents, and so she was soon a chairman of the National Projects committee. This was followed by the chairmanship of the Legislative Committee, Third Vice-President, Second Vice-President, First Vice-President, and is now our beloved National Council President.

“We all agree that Evelyn is so chosen because of her constant dedicated devotion, outstanding diligent work, achievements, and good will in local, state, and national federated gardening, and also in international achievements.”

We of Rocky Mountain Region give you Evelyn Mooney, and give to her, our very best wishes and our whole-hearted support.

SALUTE TO EVELYN MOONEY

By Betty Shryock

Sometimes we’ve traveled uphill,
Sometimes we’ve traveled down,
But always you’ve been ready and willing
To travel without a frown.
May honor and joy be with you,
God prosper you all the way,
Give you health and wealth and peace and plenty,
And love to fill each day.
May friendship grow on every side,
From seeds that you have sown,
And all the happiness you give,
Come back to be your own.
May these two years unfold for you,
Like a lovely rose all jeweled with dew,
While we, your own folk, continue to wait
Back here at home by your garden gate.
May your dreams from this April night
Be filled with every desire in sight,
While you travel far and near,
As President of National Council, dear.

GARDEN CLUB GLEANINGS

by

MRS. ROBERT K. MORRELL

103 So. Poplar, Pierre

Another month and another opportunity to chat with all of you. I really believe that I shall have to start a “Prize Word Pete” contest in the Horticulture Magazine so that more of you will write to me. A great big “Thanks” to those of you who did send in your club notes and a “Please Do” to those of you who did not. I am so proud of our Garden Clubs of South Dakota and you, too, should be proud enough of your club’s activities to want everyone to read about them in the magazine. Also won’t you let me know how many State Official Club Certificates your club needs? One for every member.

Miller Clubs Hear About National Convention

The Miller Community Garden Club is a busy group. On August 27, they met at the home of Mrs. Ralph Porter and Mrs. Burrell Collin gave a fine report on her recent trip to Alaska. Mrs. Porter presented a program on State and National parks and bless their hearts, they voted to give \$25 to the Miller Firemen’s Benefit Fund. On September 23, they met with Mrs. Louis Hemmingson and Bessie Bertsch. With the Blossom and Bulb Club of Miller they arranged a Tea for September 30, with Mr. H. L. Sletvold of Vermillion the speaker. At this meeting Mrs. Kindred reported on the National Convention and also showed beautiful slides of her Havana vacation.

Bake Sale Boosts Lyons to 100%

Three cheers for the Lyons Garden Club! They have contributed 100% to the Permanent Home Fund. A bake sale earlier netted them \$24 for this project. At their Fall Flower Show in August they had 98 entires and these were judged by Mrs. Jorgensen, assisted by Mrs. Thoresen. Mrs. Jorgensen showed interesting slides of her Colorado trip and two door prizes were given by the Lyons Club.

Pierre Learns About Lilies From Sr. M. Berthold

The Pierre Garden Club had one of its most interesting meetings on October 3, at the home of Mr. Glen Martens. The program, “Consider the Lil-

ies," was given by Sr. M. Berthold, of St. Mary's Hospital, Mrs. Don Wilson and Mrs. Charles Carr. An interesting and comprehensive discussion of the history of the lily, its use in symbols and varieties and culture was enjoyed by all. Mrs. Harold Widdoss made the Quickie arrangement using the last of the garden flowers. Mrs. Harold Hansen and Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Allan assisted the host in serving refreshments. Twenty-four members and two guests attended this meeting. The Pierre Club continues to grow and grow and every meeting is well attended.

Many Events in Dell Rapids' 25th Year

Dell Rapids Garden Club has been so busy "doing" that we have had no time to write about the "doings." June 27, 1957, was the 25th anniversary of the organization, and several special events of the year were keyed to the anniversary theme.

Beginning on Arbor Day the annual flowering tree promotion was expanded into a Memorial Tree Planting ceremony honoring the pioneer planters of the city. Twenty-five Hopa Crab trees were planted near the Dells on Highway 77, with three generations of gardeners working together in the labor of love. Appropriate dedication ceremonies accompanied the planting, with Jerry Lammers, South Dakota Parks Association director from Madison, making the dedicatory address. Valuable assistance was given by three members of the Game, Fish and Parks Department in digging the holes between the granite outcroppings. It was fitting that the occasion was also the Diamond Jubilee of the first tree plantings in the city, in what is now the City Park.

"Milestones of Remembrance" was the theme for the silver anniversary flower show on June 13, with the arrangement classes each named for a year and an event in the past history of the club. Stones with the year painted on them pointed out the corresponding class in the staging. Special significance was attached to the winner of sweepstakes for the most blue ribbons, and for the best arrangement in the show, for these awards went to Dwane Hammer, a protege of the club. Dwane won the State Scholarship for horticulture study presented by the South Dakota Federation of

Garden Clubs, after being sponsored by the club.

The Sportsman's Clubhouse in the Dells of the Sioux was the scene of a 6:30 supper and funfest to celebrate the 25th anniversary. Special places were set for the thirteen charter members of the club, the past presidents, and those whose membership embraced a period of twenty years or more. An Honorary Membership was bestowed on Mrs. Harry Bokker for her service to the club over a long period of time, making her the eighth person so honored. The President's Pin of National Council was presented to the President, Mrs. Lester Thoreson.

Anecdotes concerning gardeners were aimed at many present in "Let's Make Fun of Ourselves," and many interesting reminiscences were recalled in the responses given by the honored members. Small favors signifying the 25th anniversary marked the places for about fifty participants present, and additional favors were given to the thirty persons selected for recognition. Printed programs in lavender and silver, listed the honored persons, the evening's program, and the anniversary events which climax the 25 years of activity. A huge birthday cake, beautifully decorated and topped with a silver "25" was the gift of the Past Presidents, and was the "piece de resistance" for the supper.

The anniversary year books which won the Blue Ribbon in the State Contest were also keyed to the past with a "Do You Remember" notation by different members on each page. With "Annuals on Parade" as the theme for the year, each month's program concerned a phase of the study of annuals. One of the most interesting was Annuals from Seed to Blossom, by Mr. Lowell Jahr, of Madison. Other topics were Annuals to Lure the Birds, Annuals in Arrangements, Annuals on a Tour (Garden Pilgrimage), Annuals with Color and Design, Annual and Perennial Companions, Annuals for Winter Bouquets, Annuals Recorded on Film (slides), and Annual Plant Breeders and Hybridizers. Another project of each month was a presentation of a designated arrangement stressing design. One experienced member was assigned to work with a new member to make the arrangement. Classes were: "Good Morning," an arrangement for the breakfast table; "Drama in Design" for the mantle;

"Centerpiece for Spring" for an anniversary table; "Antique Beauty," a Hogarth Curve; "Summer Delight" for a picnic table; "Family Portrait" of zinnias; "Summer Preserved" dried material for the den; "My Thanksgiving"—dinner table; "Happy Birthday" for his birthday; and "Kitchen Glamour" fruit or foliage for the breakfast nook. Mrs. Joe Flamo was program chairman for this fine year book.

Please send in reports of your club activities, the more you send in the better our magazine will be. Weren't you proud of the whole magazine last issue?

Be seeing you.

Sincerely,
Nelle

SOUTH DAKOTA IS 100% FOR PERMANENT HOME

The "White Elephants" did it! South Dakota is now listed among the few states which have contributed a per capita \$1.00 for the permanent home of National Council of State Garden Clubs in St. Louis. Not only that, but we are the second state in our Rocky Mountain Region to become 100%. Several states have given a greater sum total but are still not among the honored few in point of membership.

With Mrs. D. S. Baughman, Permanent Home Chairman, pulling the "elephants" to the auction block, and Mrs. Leo Monteith literally shoving them hither and yon, the District V visitors and hostesses shelled out a total of \$76.65 to make our record complete. Madison Garden Club was credited with donations and purchases to the tune of \$32.15, while Dell Rapids came in second with \$17.05. Other clubs donated articles which sold as follows: Tri-State—\$8.60; Vermilion (chrysanthemums donated by Mr. Sletvold)—\$6.85; Petal Pals—\$2.95; South Sioux Falls—\$1.26, while \$7.80 was unaccounted for thus far.

South Dakota is not one to rest on its laurels, however, for we hear that other districts are planning still more sales in the future. We hope to have a complete report from Mrs. Baughman for the next issue of the magazine.

DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

DISTRICT CHAIRMEN

by

MRS. FRANCIS BINGEN, Andover
First Vice President, SDFGC

It has been recommended by National Council that the districts elect their chairman instead of having them appointed by the state president, as has been done in the past. At least, where an election is feasible.

At our last convention in June, the Vice President was assigned the duty to see to it that these elections are held in the various districts. The vice-president is to be supervisor of the district chairmen.

A district chairman is a liaison officer between her district and the President. She or he is to hold at least one district meeting a year and preferably two. At these meetings, discussions should be held on important topics pertaining to that particular region. Example: We in District I are vitally interested in the clarification of the law governing sale of plants from our gardens—must we get a license or not? This may not be a problem in District VIII, and so on. These are important enough to interest a lot of people but cannot all be taken care of at the state convention. However, recommendations should come to the president from these district meetings. So I am asking all last year's district chairmen to call a meeting within their district and choose a new chairman or you will not have your district represented at the Board Meetings. I shall answer any questions that may come up, if you will contact me by letter.

DISTRICT I MEETING IN ANDOVER—Nov. 13

District I will hold their meeting in Andover on November 13th in the

Methodist Church basement. Lunch at noon. Tentative program includes: Demonstration on making a Thanksgiving Centerpiece—Alice Platt
Wreath making—Mrs. Dagfin Lie and Mrs. Earl Locke

Discussion on Licenses—Mrs. Bierschbach

White Elephant sale

"We hope the weather will stay on the favorable side, and that you and your friends can come to see us."

DISTRICT V MEETING AT DELL RAPIDS

Dell Rapids Garden Club was happy to welcome 74 out-of-town visitors from 21 garden clubs to the District V meeting on October 5th. A change in date after the notice appeared in DAKOTA HORTICULTURE prevented attendance by some who had planned to come. Mrs. Harold O. Jorgensen, Volin, presided over the meetings.

Among the guests were the SDFGC President, Mrs. Vern Tompkins of Highmore and first vice president, Mrs. Francis Bingen from Andover. The guest register also listed eight state chairmen and three District Chairmen, one of whom came from as far distant as Winner. Local members and visitors made up the balance of the 120 folks who attended all or part of the sessions.

Guest speakers in addition to Mrs. Tompkins, were Miss Bessie Pettigrew, Flandreau; Mrs. Leo Monteith, Brookings; and Harold Sletvold, Vermillion; while Mrs. Tom Merry was guest soloist. She was accompanied by Mrs. Frank Greening. Junior Gardeners presented the flag, and Mrs. Lester Thoreson, President of the Dell Rapids Garden Club, made the guests welcome with a brief address.

Local provisions which pleased and

entertained the visitors were the "Litterbug Luncheon" and the "Nature Hobby Show." During the luncheon a huge black and white Litterbug reigned supreme, while napkins, nut-cups and favors were additional reminders of the manace of litter in our nation. Table arrangements of bronzed castor bean leaves and mums created such an enchanting effect that several were sold at the close of the meeting.

Varied are the ways in which spare time is devoted to Nature Hobbies, as was evidenced by the items displayed in the hobby show. Artists found expression for their hobbies in copper, in oil paints, in crochet thread, in gourds, in sea shells, in fresh plant materials; and in dried seeds, pods, cones and berries combined in various ways to make plaques, wreathes, or arrangements. The Junior Gardeners' exhibit of seed pictures, butterfly collections, and other work was of much interest to leaders of youngsters, and there were many questions regarding local work along that line.

The exhibits by out-of-town guests included the litterbug which was made by Mrs. Backeberg from the Winner Garden Club, and which has piled up an enviable record of miles traveled over the state to different meetings. We hope to have a picture of the famous bug for publication soon. There were beautiful gilded swags and un-

SECRETARY'S NOTES . . .

(Cont. from Page 82)

This issue of *Dakota Horticulture* will be the last issue of 1957. Beginning in January 1958 the magazine will be issued six times a year. It is planned to publish the 15th of the following months: January, March, May, July, September, and November.

HOME OF *Seeds and Trees That Grow
and Satisfy*

Gurney Seed and Nursery Co.

YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

usual winter aconites from the Tri-Staters at Valley Springs, and an arrangement of miniature dahlias, Hester Harper, that were a sensation, from Hurley's Green Thumbers.

The little Green Thumb club also won the prize for sending the greatest percentage of their members to the meeting; while the Madison Garden Club, with 14 present had the largest representation, although they were not in the District. Articles for the auction sale for Permanent Home brought a total of \$76.65 to make it the largest sale in the state to date.

Anyone interested in growing chrysanthemums missed the chance of a lifetime to see and hear all about this fall flower, if they did not hear Mr. Sletvold's talk and see his pictures. After showing many acres of mums in bloom, he duplicated the pictures with armloads of blossoms of the same varieties. The handsome table decorations and wreaths made by Miss Pettigrew also came in for a great share of attention. Her demonstrations make a fine garden club program.

The Viborg Garden Club will be hosts to the 1958 meeting.

STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

**Union Building
South Dakota State College
October 18, 1957**

The meeting was called to order by President McCrory at 9:00 A.M. with the following members present: Russ Rulon, Mrs. Baughman, Mrs. Tompkins, Mr. and Mrs. Dybvig, John Atkinson and Secretary Dean Martin. F. X. Wallner arrived shortly. Absent was Mr. Morrell and Vice President Woodward. Also present was Harry A. Graves, secretary of the North Dakota Horticulture Society.

President McCrory briefly discussed the make up of the Executive board. Mr. Dybvig presented information from the proceedings of the 1944 annual meeting. Item 1 of the Garden Club proposal for affiliation provides that the president and secretary of the Federation of Garden Clubs shall automatically become members of the Executive Board of the State Horticultural Society.

President McCrory then presented the agenda for the meeting.

Atkinson asked what had been

done about the library. McCrory explained the library had been moved to the State College library at Brookings. Atkinson then moved that the items on the agenda should be taken up as listed.

McCrory discussed the membership situation and suggested that a list of objectives of the Horticultural Society be adopted for use in developing a membership drive.

Atkinson suggested that one objective of the Society might be to publish a list of plant materials that are hardy in South Dakota.

McCrory explained the Regional Testing program carried on by the colleges in the North Central States. This program is aimed at determining hardy plants which can be recommended in this area.

Graves discussed the North Dakota membership. He also mentioned how successful the program of offering plant premiums had been in securing members. This has now been discontinued.

Dybvig suggested that the Society should definitely adopt a list of objectives.

Atkinson moved that the lists of suggested objectives be taken home to be studied and each member of the Board should return a list of six objectives. The President and Secretary shall be responsible for selecting a list of objectives from those submitted and are authorized to have membership cards printed listing these objectives. Seconded by Rulon and passed.

McCrory then asked for ideas on a membership drive.

Mrs. Baughman suggested the ideas of luncheons at which time memberships could be sold.

McCrory suggested that the printed membership cards presenting the objectives of the Society would be helpful in securing new members.

It was agreed that the best approach to new members was by personal contact and all present members should contact interested people in their own areas in regard to membership.

There being no further suggestions, the next item on the agenda was taken under consideration.

The matter of dues was presented. After some discussion it was decided to move to the item of life membership.

Dybvig stated that all that was promised with life membership was a

copy of the annual report and that life members were not entitled to receive the magazine without paying the subscription.

Rulon moved that life memberships shall be continued. The life membership shall entitle the member to the annual report, but does not entitle the member to receive the magazine free of charge. Seconded by Mrs. Baughman—Passed.

It was suggested that the matter of annual dues and the subscription rate for the magazine be discussed after the problems of the magazine were reviewed.

The next item, affiliation with other groups, was presented by McCrory. A list of organizations with related interests was read by McCrory.

It was agreed that the Horticultural Society as a parent organization should invite the groups mentioned to become affiliated with and active members of the Society.

Atkinson suggested that the groups who might affiliate be informed of the objectives of the Society and invited to make contributions to the magazine.

McCrory presented a budget for the possible continuation of the magazine. The budget showed possible receipts of \$1350.00 and money on hand. The estimated cost of six issues of the magazine was \$1350.00.

These budget figures indicated that with caution and with the possibilities of new memberships and advertising and a slight increase in the subscription rate the magazine should pay its own way. It was agreed that the magazine should be published every other month.

McCrory then called on Martin to make a report on the editing of the magazine. Martin reviewed the actions which had taken place since the annual meeting and that even though the members of the editorial board had been very helpful in preparing the last issue of the magazine a great deal of time was spent in getting all the detail work accomplished. The editing job and trips to the printers in Sioux Falls, although interesting and enjoyable, are very time consuming.

It is quite impossible to separate the editing job on the magazine from the regular office duties. The secretary stated that when not actually working on the editing job it does pre-occupy the mind.

(Continued on page 95)

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE STORY...

BETTER FRUIT FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakotans Can Look Forward
To More Varieties That Meet the
Requirements for Their State

by
RONALD PETERSON

Fruit Breeding is among the oldest lines of research at the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station. Remarkable progress has been made in developing varieties adapted to our Northern Plains.

Still our goals of developing adapted varieties of the highest quality have not yet been fully achieved. This can be readily understood when one realizes that most of the present commercial fruit varieties grown in milder climates are the result of centuries of selection by nature and man.

The problems of developing hardy fruits of accepted quality for our state have been increased in recent years by new demands of the fruit grower. He demands, and has a right to expect, attractive color and shape, higher quality, palatable skin, annual bearing, and numerous other characteristics that were not considered essential a few decades ago.

Yet, with modern knowledge of genetics and cytology, new methods of plant breeding, and a backlog of plant breeding materials accumulated during the past 70 years of research, South Dakotans can expect new fruit varieties that meet their requirements. These cannot be developed as new annual crop varieties. However, with continued research, improved new varieties should be available in a reasonable length of time.

Seek Adapted Varieties

The earliest fruit research at the South Dakota Experiment Station included planting an experimental orchard in 1887 to determine kinds and

varieties of fruit best adapted to the Dakota Territory. Most of the varieties in this orchard came from the eastern states, Russia, and Germany. Several native fruits were also included in this orchard.

Dr. Charles Keffer, who became head of the Horticulture Department in 1886, quickly learned that most standard fruit varieties were not adapted to South Dakota's climate and recognized the value of native fruits as a basis for fruit development in the Northern Plains. He suggested the possibility of improving the native sandcherry (*Prunus Besseyi*) through selection and through hybridization with other related species.

In 1891 he made an unsuccessful attempt to hybridize the sandcherry with the Vladimir cherry. During the

development of high quality fruit for our area. He pointed out that for centuries nature had been selecting this native fruit and in this way adapting it to our region. He believed that this fruit could be tremendously improved through selection and through hybridization with high quality varieties of related species.

Dr. Hansen continued to enlarge the station's plantings of native fruits and in addition collected fruit from other areas of the world with a climate similar to ours. During his lifetime work at this station he made six trips to Europe and Asia collecting fruit and other plants that might be adapted to South Dakota.

Breed Sandcherries and Plums

In 1896 work was begun in the selection of sandcherries for size, quality, and productivity. More than 12 generations of sandcherries were grown. From each generation only the choice fruits were selected for use in planting the successive generation. The extremely productive, large-fruited sandcherries of today are a tribute to the success of this work.

In 1901-02 work was resumed in hybridizing the sandcherry with many species of plums and cherries. The most successful of these hybrids were the sandcherry x Japanese plum (*Prunus salicina*) hybrids. Outstanding varieties resulting from this cross were the Sapa and Opata cherry plums introduced in 1908. The Cistena sandcherry hybrid (*Prunus Besseyi* x *Prunus pissardi*) is another of the successful hybrids. It is used as a red-leaved ornamental shrub.

Many thousands of plums (*Prunus americana*) native to the Northern Plains were grown at the South Dakota Experiment Station, particularly in the earlier years. Some of the better known varieties selected from these native plums are Wastesa (1903) and Teton (1912). Teton, considered to be the finest of the native plums, came from Campbell County. Two popular varieties selected from the morn northern form of native plums (*Prunus nigra*) were named Assinboin (1908) and Winnipeg (1908).

Plum breeding efforts were directed to interspecific hybrids of native plums and standard varieties when their worth was proven. Particularly suc-



One of Several Apple Selections that Show Great Promise for South Dakota.

same year many wild plums (*Prunus americana*) were gathered in the area west of the Missouri river so that improved selections of the native plum might be found.

Dr. N. E. Hansen became head of horticultural research in 1895. He, like Dr. Keffer, believed that our native fruits offered a sound basis for the

cessful were the hybrids of native and Japanese plums.

Hanska (1908), Kaga (1909), and Toka (1911) are three aromatic hybrid plum varieties often planted in the state today. They are hybrids of the native plum (*Prunus americana*) and the Chinese apricot plum (*Prunus simoni*). Waneta (1912) and Kahinta (1912) are two highly prized giant-sized hybrids of excellent quality resulting from a cross of the Japanese plum (*Prunus salicina*) and the native plum. Other worthy hybrid plums introduced by the South Dakota Experiment Station included Tecumseh (1918), a hybrid of a Japanese hybrid plum x *Prunus americana*; Tokata (1912), a hybrid of *Prunus simoni* x *Prunus americana*; and Pembina (1917), a hybrid of *Prunus nigra* x Japanese plum.

Make Small Fruit Selections

Thousands of seedlings of native raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, currants, grapes, and other native fruits were grown at the station for many years. Attempts were made to select outstanding varieties of each of these fruits. However, progress was slow in selecting from the pure native species.

The native fruits were also hybridized with standard cultivated varieties. Three hybrid raspberries that gained some attention were Ohta (1912), Starlight (1922), and Sunbeam (1906). Several hybrids of native and European gooseberries were given names, but none achieved prominence.

Thirty-two hybrid grape varieties were named but later proved themselves to lack either sufficient quality or adaptiveness to the state. The strawberry work, like that of other small fruits mentioned, was greatly curtailed and eventually eliminated because of a lack of land and funds to adequately support the program. Therefore, most of the progress made in improvements of these fruits was later lost.

Apricots Bloom Too Early

Apricots were relatively late in entering into the fruit breeding program of South Dakota. Standard varieties proved to be entirely lacking in hardiness. However, in 1924 Dr. Hansen collected seed of hardy apricots (*Prunus mandschurica*) in North Manchuria. These apricots proved to be

very hardy and drought resistant possessed acceptable quality. Several of these trees were selected and later named as varieties. Manchou (1936) and Chow (1936) probably were the most extensively planted. These apricots, like all other apricots grown in the United States, have the serious fault of blooming so early in the spring that the blossoms are often killed by late spring frosts.

Apple Varieties Released

Apple breeding has received considerable attention at the South Dakota Experiment Station for more than 60 years. In 1896 the Experiment Station urged farmers to grow seed from standard varieties of apples (*Malus malus*) with the hope that "it may result in the bringing forth of varieties superior to any we now have."

The Experiment Station grew large numbers of trees from seed of standard apple varieties. At the same time standard varieties were hybridized with hardy Russian varieties. In addition, seeds of Siberian crabapple (*Malus baccata*), and of wild crabapples native to the upper Mississippi Valley (*Malus ioensis*) were collected and grown.

Many varieties of apples and crabapples resulting from hybridization of these species and from selection within the pure species were selected and named. Most of these varieties were meant only to serve as intermediate steps in further breeding. Others have become popular from coast to coast.

The Dolgo (1917), Alexis (1919) Amur (1912), and Beauty (1919) crabapples, all seedlings of *Malus baccata*, have gained widespread favor. The Hopa crab (1920), a hybrid of a red fleshed apple from Turkestan (*Malus malus niedzwetzkyana*) and the Siberian crabapple, has become a very popular ornamental in the northern half of the country. However, it became apparent that unlike the plum and sandcherry breeding programs, the apple breeding work must proceed rather slowly "by a step-to-step process rather than in a single stride."

Harbin Pear Is Hardy

Improvement of the pear, like that of the apple, is a slow process. Standard pear varieties (*Pyrus communis*) have been hybridized with pears native to eastern Asia (*Pyrus betulifolia*, and *Pyrus ussuriensis*). Several of the hybrids have been named but are of

value only for breeding purposes.

An extremely hardy form of *Pyrus ussuriensis* was collected by Dr. Hansen near the northwest limits of the species in northern Manchuria. The trees grown from this seed source have been named Harbin pear. They show promise as windbreak trees and may be especially useful in breeding hardy high quality pears.

Breeding Work Progresses

A wealth of fruit material has been collected and hybridized at the South Dakota Experiment Station over the past 70 years. Promising apple seedlings have recently been discovered in the station orchards that should be of special value in developing annual bearing hardy trees with large, high-quality, red apples that hang well to the tree.

Very early maturing native grapes have been hybridized with both Eastern and California varieties as the first step in developing high quality hardy grape varieties that will mature in our short growing season. Native raspberries—red and black—have been gathered from the Black Hills and the open plains of the southwestern part of the state. They are being evaluated for hardiness with the objective of using the hardiest forms in hybridizing with standard varieties. Hardy apricots and hybrid pears are being crossed with varieties of high quality. There is some reason for optimism in our hope that later blooming apricots may soon be found which can be used in our breeding program.

Use New Methods

We are trying to test for hardiness in very early stages of growth. A new cold chamber that enables us to subject plants to temperatures as low as -40 degrees F. should hasten the work considerably. Various other approaches are being tried in attempts to quickly select only the most desirable trees.

In the past it has been difficult to have the proper kinds of pollen available for crossing when the trees are in bloom. This problem has been solved by storing pollen in a chamber constantly maintained at 15 degrees F. Now pollen is stored from one year to the next. Not only is the cost of securing pollen considerably reduced, but the breeder is assured that the pollen is on hand when needed.

Older methods of germinating hybrid seed and growing the young plants generally resulted in the loss of a high percentage of the seedlings.

Seeds of crosses are now germinated in petri dishes and then planted in sterile sand. Later the plants are either transplanted to ground beds in the greenhouse, where they are allowed to grow for 1 year, or they are transplanted to pots and then transferred to the field later in the spring. By following these procedures almost 100 percent of the crossed seeds are germinated and survive. This greatly reduces the expense involved in spring pollinating. In addition, 2 or 3 years are saved in growing a tree to fruiting age.

Some areas of South Dakota appear to offer possibilities for commercial treefruit production—particularly selected sites in the southeast part of the state in counties bordering the Missouri and Sioux Rivers, sites in the Black Hills, and portions of the Whetstone Valley. Superior varieties would not only encourage commercial production in such areas but would also bring satisfaction to the home fruit grower. (Projects 1 and 252. Leader: Ronald M. Peterson, Horticulture.)

Reprint from *South Dakota Farm and Home Research*, May 1957, Vol. VIII, No. 3, pp. 16-21, Horticulture Department, South Dakota State College Agricultural Experiment Station, Brookings.

NEWSLANTS . . .

(Continued from page 87)

six years and it has not winter-killed. They like this yellow-fruited variety with sugar and cream, but find that it breaks up badly in sauce.

The Keep America Beautiful campaign continues to pick up new recruits. Now the Chevrolet Division of General Motors is listing a litter receptacle as optional equipment for mounting under the dash.

Down To Earth, official publication of the Dow Chemical Company, carries an article in a recent issue that indicates that Quack Grass may not only compete with cultivated plants for food and moisture, but that Quack Grass may also be toxic to other plants. For example, when Quack Grass rhizomes are dried, ground to a powder, sterilized and mixed with soil in greenhouse pots, the soil becomes poisonous to alfalfa seedlings. Flax seedlings are likewise affected. Wheat, oats and barley less so. The article was written by Dr. Thor Kommedahl of the University of Minnesota.

The Bakelite Company, 40 East 42nd Street, New York 17, says one of their plastic greenhouses withstood an 18" snowfall without damage.

What's more, this polyethylene plastic is reported to be cheaper than glass.

Miss Edith Higgins of Fargo reports that they have been having excellent success with Blue Lake pole beans in their home garden. The quality of these beans are excellent, Miss Higgins says.

Studies made in Cashocton, Ohio, by the USDA Agricultural Research Service indicate that dew may be an important source of moisture for plants. Tests in Ohio indicate that as much as 10 inches can accumulate in one year in the form of dew. Appreciable amounts of moisture that is condensed as dew on plant leaves is absorbed directly by the plants.

STATE HORT. SOC. MEETING . . .

(Continued from page 92)

The additional typing load on the department office girl is another problem which should be considered.

Martin asked Harry Graves for his views on the extension horticulturist serving as editor for the magazine.

Graves reported that it would be impossible for him to take on an obligation of this nature.

Graves then gave a report for the North Dakota Society. He reported that the feeling in North Dakota was that they would prefer to have a monthly publication rather than a bi-monthly magazine as planned. He stated further that the possibility of a monthly news letter to serve the North Dakota Society was being investigated.

After further discussion of the editorial problems Atkinson moved that

the President and Secretary be given the authority to explore the possibilities of securing editorial and stenographic help to facilitate the publishing of the magazine and other affairs of the Society and further that \$500.00 be designated for this purpose. Seconded by Dybvig and passed.

McCrory then reopened the discussion on dues and subscriptions.

Dybvig moved that the calendar year January 1 to December 31 be adopted for purposes of collecting. Seconded by Atkinson and passed.

Rulon moved that dues and subscriptions be set up as two individual items and that annual dues shall be \$1.00 and the annual subscription rate shall be \$1.00 and further that this should become effective January 1, 1958. An exception to this is that this would not be effective for affiliated garden club members until the next annual meeting. At the time subscriptions for the balance of the year would be 50c with the regular annual rate of \$1.00 a year becoming effective for garden club members January 1, 1959. Seconded by Dybvig and passed.

The date of the 1958 joint annual meeting was announced by Mr. Baughman. The meeting will be held June 25 and 26 at Madison, South Dakota.

Atkinson moved for adjournment, seconded by Rulon and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

DEAN M. MARTIN
Secretary

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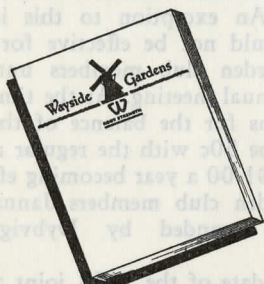
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FLOWER SHOWS

by

MRS. FRANCIS NELSON
Hurley, S. D.

Fall rains and late frosts may be thanked for lovely roses, dahlias, asters and chrysanthemums that are making flower shows outstanding this fall. The recent show at Viborg offered a real challenge to the arranger with its schedule that called for Witches Brew, in a teapot; Garden Ghosts; Pumpkin Eater, in a pumpkin; The Cat's Meow, yellow flowers in black; A Steaming Cauldron, etc. A good schedule is the foundation for a good show. Dried seed pods, leaves and cones are becoming elements of well organized arrangements and classes including this type of material add to the late fall shows. I enjoyed a class in a recent show that had wall plaques made of dried materials. Used in this manner it would be possible to enjoy their beauty for some time.

The information needed to make application for flower show awards will be found in the former issues of this magazine. It is absolutely necessary to have your show evaluated

by the judges. If you will write me, I will be glad to give any help or suggestions that I can in making out

your application. You may send it to me or direct to the state president.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Effective January 1, 1958, the subscription rate for this magazine will be \$1.00 a year for six issues appearing in January, March, May, July, September and November.

This rate applies to both annual and life members of the Horticultural Society. Subscriptions will expire with the November issue each year.

The present subscription rate for affiliated Garden Club members will remain effective until July 1, 1958. The new rate will become effective at that time. The rate of 50c for the balance of the year will become due July 1, 1958. The \$1.00 rate will become effective January 1, 1959. Horticultural Society dues remain at \$1.00 and become due January 1, 1958.

A completely revised mailing list will be used for the January issue. If you wish to continue receiving the magazine be sure your subscription is paid by January 15, 1958.

Subscriptions and dues should be sent to the Secretary, Dean Martin, Horticulture Department, South Dakota State College, College Station, Brookings, South Dakota.